



FUNDAMENTALS OF  
**Photovoltaics**  
FOR THE FIRE SERVICE



Program Funded By:  
Sacramento Municipal  
Utility District  
&  
California Solar Energy  
Industries Association

Instructional Design By:  
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# INTRODUCTION

## Technical Review

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# INTRODUCTION

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## **Program Goal:**

To provide fire service personnel with an awareness of photovoltaic systems, so that you can make informed decisions and operate safely during an emergency.



# INTRODUCTION

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## **Course Materials on Compact Disk:**

- Student Manual
- Student Handout
- Instructor Guide
- Powerpoint Presentation



# INTRODUCTION

## Student Introductions

- Name
- Rank/Position
- Department or Agency
- What do you know about solar energy?
- What do you hope to learn?

# AGENDA

- INTRODUCTION
- CELLS AND COMPONENTS
- PV PERFORMANCE
- PV APPLICATIONS
- CODES AND STANDARDS
- EMERGENCY RESPONSE



What are the chances of responding to an emergency where a photovoltaic system has been installed?



# INTRODUCTION

2005 Worldwide PV Production

1,565 megawatts

2005 Worldwide PV Production:

Germany at 53% or 837 MW

Japan at 14% or 292 MW

U.S.A. at 3% or 104 MW

By 2010, 2.5 gigawatts of PV  
production is projected worldwide





# INTRODUCTION

California is the National leader  
17,300 grid-connected systems

California's Goal:

One million solar roofs by 2017

Generating 3,000 MW of electricity

Double the worldwide PV output in 2005

# INTRODUCTION



Livermore, California – Multi-family housing development outfitted with PV electric systems- the wave of the future!



Are photovoltaic systems  
safe to operate around?



# INTRODUCTION

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Yes! Under normal operating conditions

The PV industry has a good safety record

But, no technology is risk free!

Only one recorded PV electrical injury to a fire fighter was reported worldwide



# INTRODUCTION

Emergency Conditions  
Know the Potential Hazards:

Electric Shock

Inhalation Exposure

Falls from Roofs

Roof Collapse

# INTRODUCTION



With a concentration of PV in San Diego, there were no reported injuries during the 2003 wild fires



## SUMMARY

The fire service has been known to be resistant to technological changes in our society.

Alternative energy production is the next big technological change that the fire service will have to come to terms with.

SMUD and CAL SEIA have seen the need to inform emergency responders of how to work around photovoltaic technology safely.